

Klondyke Tailings Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site

Community Advisory Board Meeting

FINAL MINUTES

Thursday July 1, 2004
Klondyke School House
500 ft Southwest of 36951 Klondyke Road
Klondyke, Arizona

Ref: PIOUS 05-004

CAB members present: Michael Bryce, Mark Herrington, Lynn Skinner, Bill Griffin, Mark Haberstick, John Luepke, Noralea Gale

Members absent: Anne Zapf, Sam Sollers, Terry Cooper, Matthew Kent and James Palmer

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Ed Pond, Project Manager; Wendy Van Deusen, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the public present: Carol Sollers, Bill Sollers, Bonnie Garwood, Dale Turner, Jay and Ginny Schnell, Lauralla Haby Bott and others

The meeting began at 4:00 pm.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided upon at the meeting:

1. Welcome and Introductions

John Luepke welcomed CAB members and guests. All present were introduced.

2. Acceptance or changes to the June 26, 2003 draft minutes

Lynn Skinner moved and Noralea Gale second for the minutes to be accepted as written.

3. Brief review of current status and activities

Ed Pond, Project Manager, went through a slide show of information in relation to the Klondyke site. A map of the area and site were presented. Ed Pond gave a brief background on the site and the goals for clean up.

Ed Pond stated that there is money to pay for the ongoing tasks. The hope is to have enough for drilling, monitor well installation and surface and subsurface soil sampling. It is unlikely there will be enough for an Early Response Action (ERA).

Currently work at the site includes an archeological survey and biological survey which were completed last month. ADEQ is currently finalizing the reports on the remedial investigation work plan, geophysical survey, floodplain analysis and geomorphology study, early response analysis, black and white photography and acid-base accounting.

Future work includes implementation of the remedial investigation work plan and portions of the ERA, depending on budget. For surface water samples coordination will be made with someone in the area when it rains to collect runoff and surface water samples.

The U of A continues to do their research in regards to the project. They are looking at sources of heavy metals and their methods of transport. The U of A is also looking at the viability of growing vegetation on the pile, which is difficult due to the acidity of the soil. Ed Pond explained the characteristic of the acids that are in the soil in response to a question. Most of the acidic soil has stayed on site due to the drought.

The archeological and cultural survey was conducted last month and no archeological sites were discovered. There are historic buildings on site. Preliminary analysis indicates that the site does qualify for the federal and state historical register based on age. If there is remediation that occurs in the flood plains, a Clean Water Act permit would be required and the site work will need to stay in compliance with federal laws.

A biology survey was conducted and based on preliminary analysis of the data, there are no threatened or endangered species on site. There are several biological and aquatic resources that are worth protecting and might be impacted by the site. Aravaipa Creek is a Unique Water as designated by the State of Arizona and a potential receptor of contaminated runoff from the site.

The results of the floodplain and geomorphology survey state that there is potential impact via erosion by Aravaipa and Laurel Creek. The 10, 25, 50 and 100-year floodplains has been delineated. A flood could cause metals and acidity to run down stream because the stream channel is migrating towards the pile. Discussion was held concerning channelization of the river, the potential impacts and costs related to it.

Various slides were shown of the site over the recent years to show the changes and effect of the river flows. Slides were shown of the aerial photography done by the consultant. Black and white photography was done in 2003 and color photography in 2002. There is a database of photographs dating back to 1931 and the changes of the river are evident in the photos.

In response to a question, Ed Pond explained that the wells will not be drilled through the tailings piles so there would be no effect on groundwater by the drilling. Wells that were sampled around the area both up and downstream met all state and federal water quality standards.

Ed Pond spoke on the possibility of tanks and drums in the area in response to a question. It is felt they might be present due to historical recollection of the area. It is important to find out what is going on in the subsurface.

Ed Pond explained a map which had the sample location and analytical information for soil acidity. The map showed the areas of acid generators and neutralizers on the site. Rainfall and flooding influence the process as well and the byproducts could leach into groundwater. A question was asked what work is left to do at the site. Ed Pond stated that wells need to be drilled; more soil and subsurface soil samples need to be collected.

A discussion was held about the wells that are currently on site and why those can't be used for sampling. Ed Pond stated that many times samples need to be taken in specific locations to be representative of current conditions and in the right aquifers. The construction of the existing wells could differ from what is needed for the samples and some of them might not even be working or representative of site conditions

4. Discussion and Voting on New CAB member: Bill Griffin

Lynn Skinner moved to accept Bill Griffin to the CAB. Mark Herrington seconded and the CAB voted to have Bill Griffin join the CAB.

5. Call to public: none

6. Future meeting plans:

Thursday, October 21, 4 to 6 pm at the school house in Klondyke. Wendy Van Deusen stated that in October discussion and voting would take place for new co-chairs according to the charter. A repository discussion was held about keeping the two that are currently in place. CAB members agreed to keep the repositories at the Klondyke Country Store and Safford library.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30